

TEETH WHITENING

The practice of Dentistry includes the examination, diagnoses, and treatment of conditions within the human oral cavity. When a patient visits a dental office and requests teeth whitening, a dentist must first examine that person to determine whether such a treatment is indicated. Upon determination that teeth whitening is appropriate treatment, a dentist may construct an appliance for use in that treatment.

It is essential that a dentist examine and diagnose a patient *before* proceeding with teeth whitening or delegating that procedure to anyone within a dental office. Even with this diagnosis by the dentist, dental hygienists or unlicensed professionals (dental assistants) may *not* place or adjust dental appliances. A tray constructed for the purpose of whitening teeth constitutes a dental appliance. This construction is the practice of dentistry – regardless of who takes the impression – and requires a diagnosis.

Failure to adhere to these provisions of Wisconsin Statutes Section 447.01(8)(c) may subject a licensee to disciplinary action and/or the unlicensed individual to prosecution.

▼ This opinion does not represent the position of the Department of Regulation and Licensing General Counsel or the Department of Justice. ▼ For further information [click here](#).